

OIL
 Price of a barrel
 of petroleum
 today:
US\$ 39.38

INSIDE TODAY
U.S. NEWS
POWER OUTTAGE



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich talks to the media at his home in Chicago, Friday, Jan. 9, 2009. The Illinois House voted Friday to impeach Blagojevich.
 See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS
BCS CHAMPIONSHIP



Florida's Tim Tebow yells to his teammates during the fourth quarter of the BCS Championship NCAA college football game against Oklahoma in Miami, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009. Florida defeated Oklahoma 24-14.

See *Sports Today*

Brinkman would not even apologize for made statements

Dutch MP's kick colleague out of Caribbean delegation

ORANJESTAD - Dutch MPs, holding talks in Aruba with their counterparts from the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, have ejected their right-wing Freedom Party colleague Hero Brinkman from the delegation. They said his presence had become unworkable. Shortly before the conclusion of the conference, Mr Brinkman was asked to leave the Aruban parliament building after he launched a tirade against the Aruban delegation and government, and called the Aruban justice minister Rudy Croes a liar. At the moment, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles are separate autonomous regions within the kingdom



of the Netherlands, enjoying different degrees of self-government. The Dutch MPs and their Antillean and Aruban counterparts were meeting to discussing future state reforms in the Caribbean islands. Before the start of the talks Mr Brinkman told US

news channel Fox News that the Antilles was as "corrupt as hell". His fellow Dutch delegates issued a statement stressing they did not share his views. Mr Brinkman's comments caused the discussions to be strained, with Wednesday's session being delayed, and

Thursday's being suspended for a number of hours. The Dutch government is considering introducing registration for Caribbean youths who emigrate to the Netherlands and repeatedly get into trouble with the police. During a debate on the issue, Mr Brinkman accused the Antilles and Aruba of "sending your rubbish to the Netherlands" □

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Instructions for State council under review

Bar in Curacao Studies Concept of Law



WILLEMSTAD – The Bar in Curacao has studied the concept of the law regarding the authority to give instructions and the introduction of just one central procurator-general and has sent a judicial advice on this to the State Council for the Kingdom that will soon report on this.

Regarding the authority to

give instructions, the Bar establishes that currently the Charter already offers the possibility for the government for the Kingdom to take actions. “That possibility is surrounded with the necessary guarantees. However, any information why the laid down guarantees in the Charter would be no longer needed, is lacking.”

The Bar is of the opinion that same as the Netherlands, the Land Curacao is a constitutional state, and not to a lesser degree. “This means that there must be other, important reasons to justify an authority to give instructions, without the current guarantee laid down in the Charter. After all, it is an offence against the autonomy.

It attracts the Bar’s notice that the wish to establish this authority to give instructions is not founded or motivated in any public document.”

Karel Frielink (President of the Bar) says: “The Bar expressly does not comment on the question whether there ought to be an authority to give instructions or not. That is a political question. The Bar is not involved in politics. A cautious reply would be that the authority to give instructions can only be used in very extreme situations, which will probably never happen.

It’s also not about whether mistakes will be made in the new Land Curacao, but whether the own self-cleaning capacity will be sufficient as the occasion arises. The Bar is of the opinion that considering

the experiences in the last decade, Curacao does have this self-cleaning capacity and it is demonstrable. It is therefore not clear why now Curacao needs a possibility to take actions, which is surrounded by less procedural guarantees.”

One PG

The Bar has also studied the proposition for appointing just one procurator-general. This PG will be at the head of three Public Prosecutors: of Curacao, St. Maarten, and the BES-islands (Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius). The Bar is concerned about the fact that in a system in which one PG will be responsible for three Public Prosecutors, his duty is going to be seriously harmed. “The fear is that this will ultimately go to the expense of the quality of those Public Prosecutors.” □



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South Beach Center Comes Alive



PALM BEACH – The unique South Beach Center just recently celebrated the opening of a number of new fun stores. The Lazy Lizard boutique a one-stop-shop for beach gear from wraps, to hats and flip flops; Enigma Boutique for top fashions at a reasonable price, and Rembrandt Café, for food and drink anytime of the day.

The Lazy Lizard is owned by



Bernasco who put their heads together to deliver a genuine brown-café to Palm Beach.

The still under construction South Beach Centre adds a unique architectural character to the Palm Beach area and enhances the strip just below the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa with a mix of stores and eateries.

The centre is graced by two individual buildings, and the Plaza area between them, which combines it all aesthetically mixing retail with dining and entertainment.



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Visited Aruba more than 10 times

Aruba Tourism Authority honored Mrs. Carmen Rincon and Mr. & Ms. Añes-Caldera



ORANJESTAD - This week the office of Tourism in Aruba honored Mr. & Mrs. Añes-Caldera as distinguished visitors of our Island for more than 10 years. Mrs. Carmen Rincon is the aunt of Mrs. Ana Añes who always travel together, and for the last 10 years have faithfully been lodging at Coconut Inn. The first time they visited Aruba, was in June of 1984 and from then they have been coming



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back regularly and for the last 10 years consecutively.

Mr. Herbert Añes is the manager of the famous Tucusones gaita group of Maracaibo; his wife is a

composer who has composed several songs for Gaita groups here in Aruba. Mr. Añes said that they have received many awards here in Aruba, and that Aruba has a great appreciation

for Gaita music. They have gone as far as to take Aruban Gaita groups to Venezuela to perform. Every year during Christmas and new years, they are here in Aruba. Every year they try to bring more and more family members to Aruba to celebrate Christmas. The main reason they keep visiting Aruba, what really makes an impression on them is the treatment they get from our people and their son who has been living in Aruba for many years and the amazing treatment they always get from Coconut Inn.

During the ceremony Mr. Angel Royer, manager of Coconut Inn was present, and organized a quaint and friendly morning for the family.

On the picture we can appreciate the couple, Mrs. Carmen Rincon and also Angel Royer. □

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LOUIS VUITTON COLLECTION

STEPHEN SPROUSE adds inspiration to with new collection



"I tried to use the things in Stephen's vocabulary, and give the collection the shape, silhouette and styling that Stephen would have done when he was at the top of his game. It really is a complete homage, and a complete combination of what is Louis Vuitton, and what is this legendary icon, and then what are the icons and the lasting aesthetics that Stephen left in the fashion world," said Marc Jacobs.

For the new collection, envisioned as a total tribute to the man with whom he built a close friendship during the months of their collaboration, Marc Jacobs chose to revisit the two motifs which, for him, best represent the legacy of Stephen Sprouse at Louis Vuitton: the graffiti and the

rose. The graffiti requires no introduction, but – for those who knew Stephen Sprouse – the rose is equally charged with meaning. In the mid-1970s, the designer got his hands on a state-of-the-art Xerox colour copier, and started to enlarge images multiple times until they became distorted and abstract. These he incorporated into his designs, and he would send images of roses as a thank you to his friends.

The 2009 Stephen Sprouse – Louis Vuitton collection is thus an affectionate and respectful reinterpretation of the original collaboration. The rose – which in 2000 featured only on ready-to-wear – now takes its place alongside the graffiti as a Stephen Sprouse icon on one of two new limited-edition leather goods lines: Monogram Roses and Monogram Graffiti. In a celebratory revival of Stephen Sprouse's Eighties punk aesthetic, the motifs are screen-printed on Monogram canvas in high-voltage Day-Glo shades of pink, green and orange.

The historic Louis Vuitton bags chosen by Marc Jacobs and Stephen Sprouse for the original collaboration – the Keepall and the Speedy – are now joined by the cult Neverfull holdall, which features in both the Monogram Graffiti and Monogram Roses lines. Small leather goods, meanwhile, spotlight the Pochette Accessoires in Monogram Roses, and the fluorescent-lined Zippy wallet and coin purse in Monogram Graffiti. For the first time, Stephen Sprouse's rose motif also appears on another Louis Vuitton icon, the Alma bag, which is being launched in new, eye-popping shades of glossy Monogram Vernis leather – appropriately, one of Marc Jacobs' earliest inventions for Louis Vuitton.

"I did my best, in a very first degree way, to do what I think Stephen would have done, or has done, in terms of fashion," says Marc Jacobs of the capsule ready-to-wear line he created in homage to Stephen



Sprouse. Referencing Stephen Sprouse's own sources of inspiration, the line has an overt street vibe, materialized in crossover pieces such as graffiti-tagged T-shirts and jeans with Day-Glo details for men and women. One of the key looks for women – executed in the same clashing brights as the leather goods – is a T-shirt dress of the kind Stephen Sprouse designed in the Eighties, printed with bold digitized roses and paired with fluorescent graffiti-tagged leggings.

Street influences surface again in basketball-inspired unisex sneaker boots in Monogram Graffiti canvas with glow-in-the-dark welts and multiple Velcro straps – a reminder, too, that Stephen Sprouse was using Velcro as a futuristic detail long before it became mainstream. In the same spirit, accessories include retro mask sunglasses with fluorescent flashes, a Louis Vuitton graffiti signature headband and wristband set, and a Graffiti-print Monogram bandana.

Reflecting Stephen Sprouse's visionary mix of downtown and uptown, more urban pieces include the classic



macintosh—much admired by the designer – with a stunning graffiti-splashed Monogram lining. Shoes spotlight Louis Vuitton's emblematic high-heeled pumps and flat ballerinas in sleek black or fluorescent patent leather, printed with outside roses or Stephen Sprouse's graffiti signature, with Louis on one foot and Vuitton on the other. Accessories feature bold graffiti bangles and bag charms or sophisticated rose-

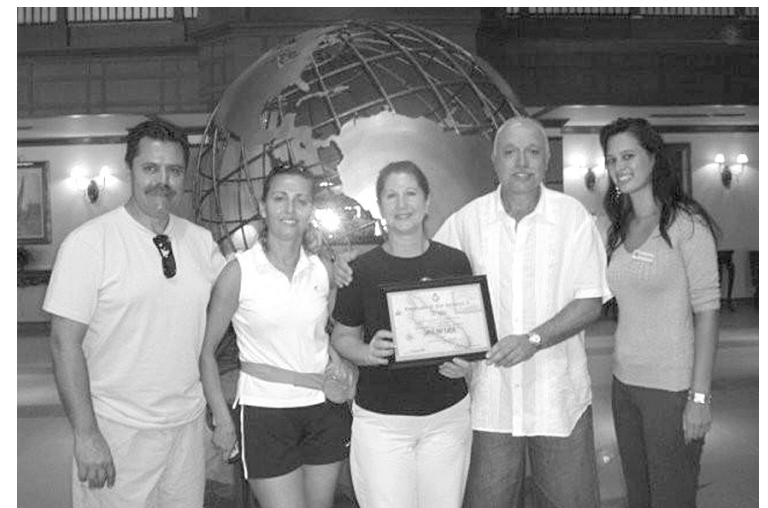


print stoles, while – in the ultimate fusion of chic and street – fine jewellery presents a yellow gold padlock pendant with the Louis Vuitton graffiti signature picked out in the nearest natural gems get to Day-Glo brights: pink sapphires, emeralds and orange spessartines. □



20 times return guests

Aruba Tourist Association Honors Guests



ORANJESTAD—This week the Tourism of Aruba's office, honored the couple Garo & Arlet Kalktik as ambassadors of goodwill of our Island, for have been visiting our Island for more than 20 years. The first time they visited Aruba was in 1987, and since then they have been coming back faithfully.

The Klaktik couple lives in Ontario, Canada. Their main reason for coming back to Aruba for more than 20 years is the hot sun, white beaches, the beach, our friendly people, and the feeling of safety they enjoy in Aruba. The couple considers Aruba their second home for more than 20 years. During the ceremony, Freya Kraag of Marriott Surf Club and Friends and family of the couple were present.

On the picture we can appreciate the couple in company of Freya Kraag and their friends. □

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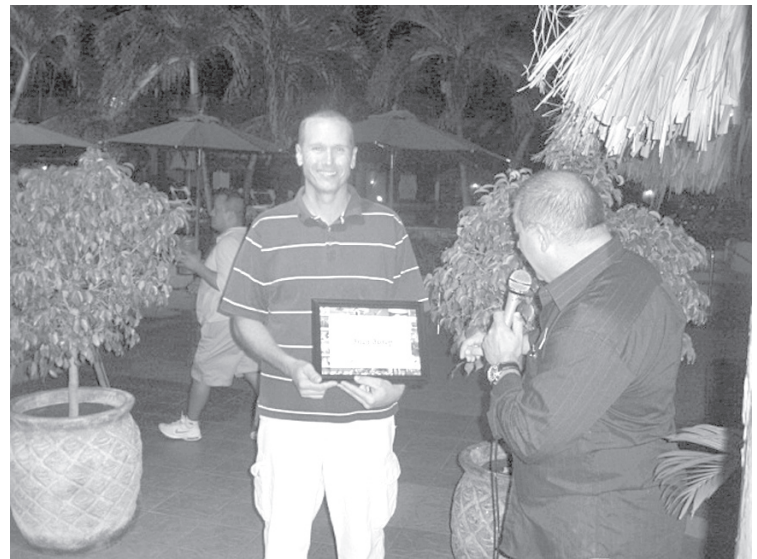
Casual Beachside Dining

Breakfast: 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Lunch: 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. • Dinner: 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Sunset Salute Happy Hour with Live Entertainment

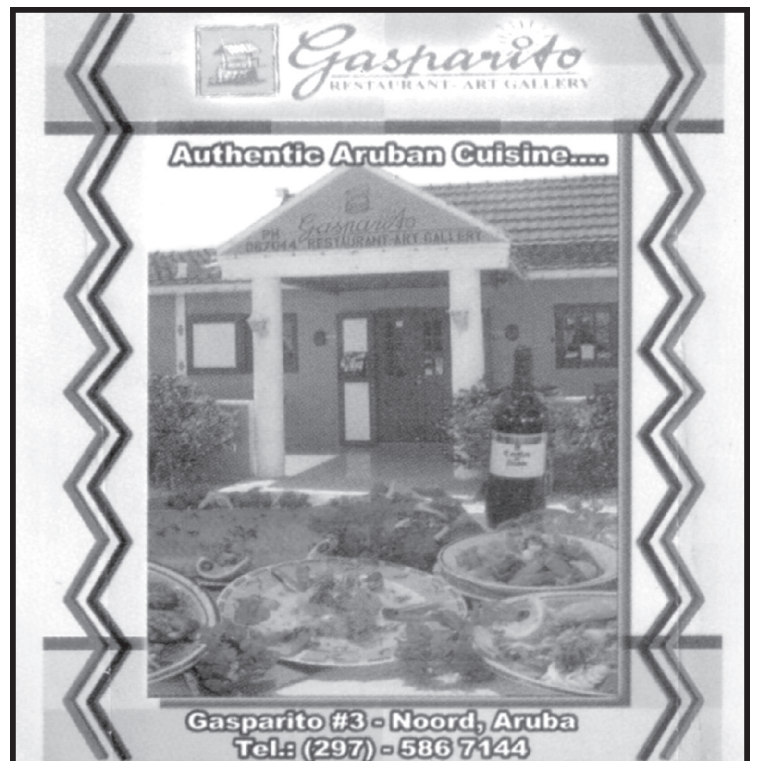
Daily 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Bar: 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Brian Bishop honored at the Mill Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at the Mill Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the The Mill which they call their home away from home. Mr. Brian Bishop was honored as an distinguished visitor for the Island of Aruba after coming to the Island for 10 years with the New Jersey swimming team

On picture Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Brian at the Mill Resort and also Patricia and Andreina



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Scuba pioneer helped popularize undersea sport

A diving Legend passes away

BONAIRE - During the early days of scuba diving in the 1950s, Elmer Munk was so awed by the dazzling that he eventually quit his office job and opened a dive shop to share the undersea world with thousands of future divers.

The Venice resident, who was among the first class of diving instructors to be nationally certified by the YMCA in the 1950s and went on to train more than 3,500 divers, died Dec. 29, a week shy of his 77th birthday.

He suffered from lung disease in recent years, his family said. "Diving has been the great love of my life..." he told the Herald-Tribune in 2004. "It's an amazing world down there."

One of his favorite sites was the turquoise waters off the island of Bonaire in the southern Caribbean. He brought so many of his dive students there over the years that island officials surprised him by naming a dive site after him -- Munk's Haven -- in the 1980s. "He's one of the few people who has logged more than 6,000 dives," said his son, Jeff "Chip" Munk of Lyman, Wyo.

An accomplished underwater photographer, the elder Munk amassed a collection of more than 5,000 photographs, some of which won national awards. Munk was an avid fisherman living in Evanston, Ill.,

when a newspaper article in 1956 about scuba diving caught his attention.

He took his first dive the following year and lobbied his local YMCA to offer a scuba diving course.

In 1959 he completed the Y's first course nationwide for certifying diving instructors and instructor trainers, and by 1961 was teaching a scuba course at his Y.

"When I started diving it was literally just getting started in this country," he told the Herald-Tribune.

Munk turned his hobby into a career when he opened Elmer's Water Sports in the Chicago area in 1971.

He later helped develop courses in underwater search and rescue techniques, night diving and other advanced skills.

In 1991 he sold his business and moved to Venice, where his father owned property.

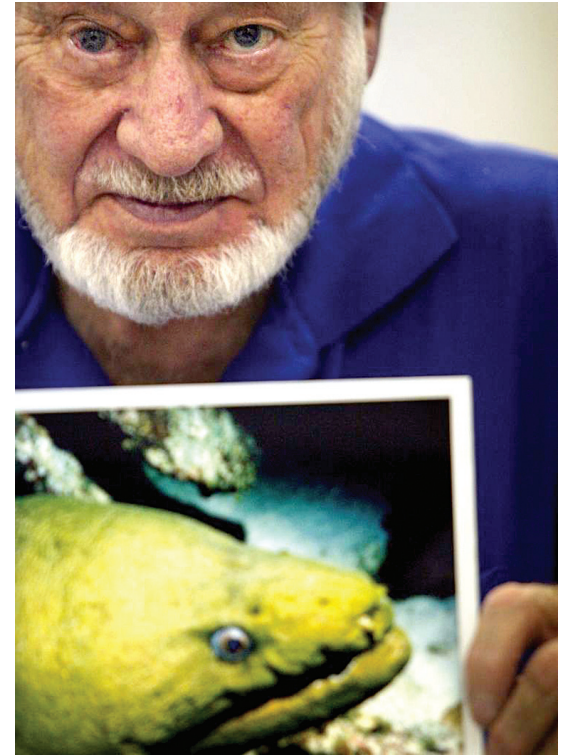
Severe asthma forced Munk to give up diving in 1997, but not before one final dive at Munk's Haven with his son, who was celebrating his 40th birthday, and his 18-year-old grandson, who earned his diving certification on the trip.

Munk worked as an administrative specialist with the Venice Fire Department before retiring in 2004.

In addition to his son, he is survived by a daughter, Susan Munk, of Mundelein, Ill.; a sister, Vilma

"Willie" Murphy, of Aiken, S.C.; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A celebration of his life was held earlier this week □



Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café

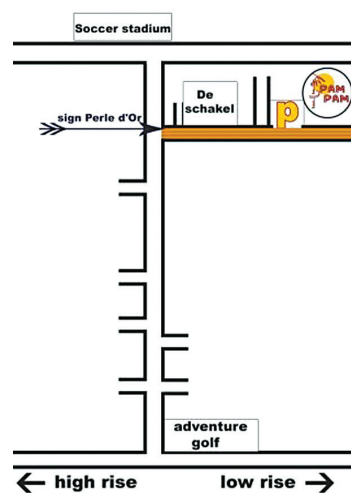


Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among



other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$10 / \$22, include salad, and a hearty serving of side orders.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of

preparation, which presently, in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone: 5877710 or 5932660 □

Cool Breezes, Fabulous Cuisine, Stars on the night sky, And You...
The most delicious way to have dinner as the sun sets

Red Sail Sports teamed up with the **Hyatt Regency and Marriott Resort** to create an unforgettable **Dinner Sail** experience. Sure to be the highlight of your Aruban holiday, this **Dinner Sail** takes place this coming **Wednesday and Thursday from 6 – 9 pm**. Specially priced at \$95 per person, the Dinner Sail offers excellent value as it combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the



sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. Dinner includes appetizers, salads, main courses and dessert selections. Champagne, red and white wine and beer is served along with an open bar which offers a variety of tropical cocktails, including some Aruban specialties – be sure to ask for a Captain's Special! Wednesday's nights Dinner Sail features a traditional Caribbean themed buffet catered by the chefs from the Marriott Resort. Thursday's night Dinner Sail features a buffet with a Mediterranean twist. Whichever night you choose, you're sure to enjoy a unique dinner experience. Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans. Set sail and join Red Sail Sports fun filled Half Day Luncheon or Antilla Snorkel Sail. These trips are safe for kids of all ages and bring you to the best snorkeling spots in Aruba, including Aruba's most famous snorkeling spot – the wreck of the Antilla where you can see yellowtail snapper, angelfish and dozens of other tropical fish. Red Sail Sports also offers a Sunset Sail where you can relax with a cocktail and enjoy the spectacular Aruban sunset – truly the best way to watch the sun go down while on your Caribbean holiday. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with

Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's leading dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.



Only the highest quality will do
Nobushi makes sushi like no one else



PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. If you are in a hurry, go somewhere else. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. The chefs specialize in Aruba Exotic Sushi and Asian Cuisine with unique flavors second to none. The ever so friendly staff will gladly explain the different dishes and specials to you, and help you with unique food & wine pairings. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety sashimi, sushi rolls,

chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses. Nobushi is located in the Paseo Herencia Mall across the Holiday Inn Resort.

For reservations & more information please call: 586-2211 or ask your concierge.

Kitchen opens Saturday the 17th, Drinks are flowing like the fountain already

New Whale Species Arrives on Aruba

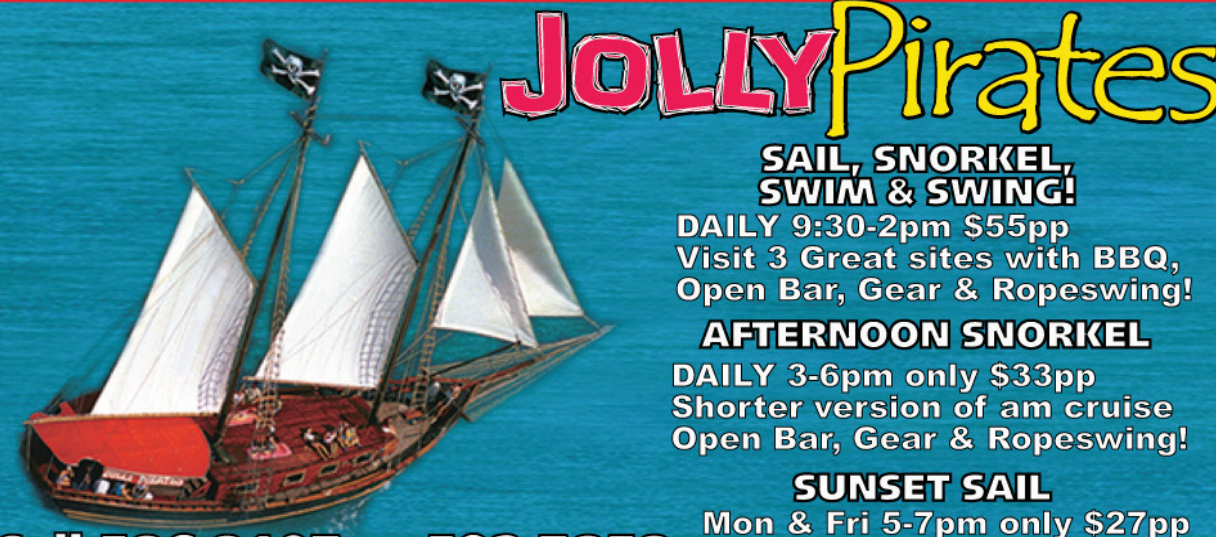
PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's was a long time in the making, but the wait is now over. This week the bar went open for business, and the kitchen will be open on Saturday the 17th of January. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The

inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall.




The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste. Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef

has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!



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ARUBA-OSTRICH-FARM



Get ready for a close and personal encounter with huge, prehistoric birds! The Aruba Ostrich Farm invites you to meet these unique birds and learn more about their behavior, natural instinct and maybe even stand on its enormous eggs. Our Savanna Lodge Restaurant serves ostrich delicacies, chicken dishes, salads, vegetarian dishes and offers a breathtaking view along Aruba's north shore. Don't forget to pay a visit to our African Art Shop!



Bring this ad for a 20% discount on the tour. Not valid with other promotions.



Pago Pago
Seafood & Grill Dining

Enjoy wonderful cuisine as you dine in this unique American steakhouse with a Caribbean flair.

Two diverse culinary worlds are offered: exotic Caribbean food and cowboy-size servings of USDA-certified Black Angus Beef.

Special offer:
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ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent “Havana Dance” explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban

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While the greater part of the “Havana Dance” review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. “Havana Dance” unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set “Havana Dance” apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous “Let’s Go Latin” review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for “Havana Dance” are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge’s desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort.

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For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357.

Don’t miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of “Havana Dance.” □

“Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of



“Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba

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Wine & Food Pairing at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House



ORANJESTAD — Romar Trading conducted an informative afternoon at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House to further enhance wine & food pairing knowledge among members of management and staff. Wine expert Clive Faustin lead an engaged and interested group through a series of tastings, suggesting perfect combinations with many of the restaurant's delectable dishes.

As seen in our pictures, it was a much-enjoyed and appreciated afternoon. L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House also extended a warm invitation to some press members who took part in the tasty interactive afternoon, sipping and munching with great enthusiasm. □



US doctors pay to hear Ore. town's vaccine views

By **JEFF BARNARD**,
Associated Press Writer

ASHLAND, Ore. — There are so many parents in this free-spirited, unconventional small town who won't get their kids vaccinated that federal researchers are paying money just to hear their side of things. On Saturday, 80 locals will get \$50 apiece to talk about their worries over the risks of childhood shots.

"One of the basic tenets of my decision-making is mistrust of the government, a mistrust of the pharmaceutical companies, and mistrust of the big blanket thing that says this is what everybody has to do," says Tracy Harding, an organic farming consultant and mother of two.

"I get the public health standpoint," she said. "I am

still questioning (vaccines') safety."

Nationally, there is a budding movement of parents who are getting exemptions from laws requiring children to get vaccinated before attending school. The exemptions are one explanation the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gives for a spike in measles cases. The government recommends as many as 10 vaccines before a child is 6, plus boosters along the way.

Dr. Ben Schwartz, an adviser to the National Vaccine Program, said the meeting in Ashland is one of three where the government is paying average citizens to give their views to inform officials charting the direction of vaccine research for the next five years. A

similar meeting was held in Birmingham, Ala., and another is set for Indianapolis, both sites with more mainstream views about vaccines.

But Ashland stands apart from the mainstream.

The town of 20,000 on the flanks of the Siskiyou Mountains in southwestern Oregon has always been different. In the early 20th century it was on the Chautauqua lecture circuit, and the sulfurous waters of Lithia Springs drew visitors looking for a cure for what ailed them.

Today, it has one of the highest rates in the nation for vaccine exemptions — 28 percent and rising in kindergartens, compared with about 4 percent statewide. One alternative school has 67 percent.

A liberal outpost in a

conservative region, Ashland likes to go its own way. The city has its own water and electric utilities, and was a pioneer promoting solar energy, high-speed Internet, and dog parks. It has serious debates about whether to cut down trees to expand the library or whether to allow a woman to ride her bicycle naked in the Fourth of July parade.

For years, Dr. Jim Shames, a physician who prefers a down vest to a lab coat, has argued the benefits of vaccines with Harding, his next-door neighbor.

As Jackson County's chief medical officer, Shames would like every child immunized. Ashland always has some whooping cough around, which can be devastating to babies, but has seen no spike in measles. Still, Shames fears the community is vulnerable because so many international visitors come to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Southern Oregon University. Shames has been working with nursing students from Oregon Health & Science University on a pamphlet that would promote immunization.

While doing interviews for that pamphlet, nursing student Shauna Gargus, who had her own two kids vaccinated, found many parents distrust mainstream medicine. They tend to believe their friends rather than medical research. Their biggest single fear is that the shot for measles, mumps

and rubella could cause their children to become autistic, despite solid scientific studies that show no evidence of that.

"The fear is real for parents, and it overshadows the research," she said. "This is my hometown. This is where I grew up. I care about the community here. I just really would like to not make this a browbeating issue."


Harding is suspicious of the need to inject so many vaccines into small children. She stopped vaccinating her son, Frank, after his first shot as a baby triggered hours of crying. Her daughter, Stella, got a tetanus shot, but that is all.


Until now, Tyre Dawn has depended on organic food and plenty of playtime outdoors to keep her 4-year-old son, Lukyan, healthy. But she is planning to open a preschool in the spring, and with so many children around, she is now rethinking her policy.

"It is essential in these times for everyone to look more closely at the choices they are making," she said.

Jennifer Margulis moved here with her husband and three kids from Massachusetts, where her mother is a cellular biologist and member of the National Academy of Sciences. Though she chuckles at some of Ashland's personality quirks, she embraces the city's strong sense of community and many people's distrust of mainstream medicine. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks slide after rise in unemployment rate

By MADLEN READ and STEPHEN BERNARD,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The first full week of 2009 didn't bring Wall Street any huge shocks, but it didn't bring much for investors be happy about, either.

A jump in unemployment sent stocks sharply lower Friday as investors feared that Americans won't soon deviate from their tightened budgets. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 143 points to end the week down nearly 5 percent. The Labor Department's much-anticipated report showed employers cut 524,000 jobs in December, a smaller decline than the loss of 550,000 jobs economists forecast. But the unemployment rate jumped to a 16-year high of 7.2 percent — more than the 7 percent economists predicted — from 6.8 percent in November.

Lost jobs were not a shock to Wall Street, but the news still stung.

"People say that they know how bad the economy is. But they don't know how it feels to have the reality hit home," said Stu Schweitzer, global markets strategist at J.P. Morgan's Private Bank. "It's not the facts — it's how the facts feel. And it feels terrible to have so many Americans losing jobs, and so many more likely to follow in the coming months."

Rising unemployment tends to erode consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity. For all of 2008, the economy lost 2.6 million jobs — the most since 1945. Retailers have been reporting dismal holiday sales figures, and Wall Street is concerned about how long the economy will be suffering a pullback in consumer spending.

President-elect Barack Obama on Friday called December's jobs loss "a stark reminder

of how urgently action is needed" to revive the nation's staggering economy. Obama is planning on a stimulus package costing about \$800 billion, consisting of tax cuts and other ways to try to help individuals and businesses. But investors were nonetheless worried about the prospects for the economy.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 143.28, or 1.64 percent, to 8,599.18. Broader stock indicators also lost ground. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 19.38, or 2.13 percent, to 890.35, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 45.42, or 2.81 percent, to 1,571.59.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies dropped 20.71, or 4.13 percent, to 481.30.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a light 1.16 billion shares.

For the week, the Dow fell 4.8

percent, the S&P 500 slid 4.5 percent and the Nasdaq lost 3.7 percent.

Bond prices rose as investors sought safety following Friday's grim economic data. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 2.36 percent from 2.44 percent late Thursday. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest short-term investments, slipped to 0.07 percent from 0.08 percent compared with late Thursday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude fell 87 cents to settle at \$40.83 on the New York Mercantile Exchange after dipping as low as \$39.38.

In other economic data, the Commerce Department reported that businesses cut wholesale inventories for a third straight month in November, while sales continued to plunge. Wholesale inventories

dropped 0.6 percent, and sales were down a record 7.1 percent.

Energy stocks were among the biggest decliners after oil fell. Occidental Petroleum Corp. fell \$2.70, or 4.6 percent, to \$56.30. Schlumberger Ltd. fell \$2.83, or 6.2 percent, to \$43 after announcing plans to cut about 5 percent of its work force due to the drop in oil prices. Oil is down from more than \$147 a barrel in July, hurting demand for exploration and production services.

Citigroup Inc. fell 41 cents, or 5.7 percent, to \$6.75 after board member Robert Rubin, the former U.S. Treasury secretary, resigned as a senior adviser to the big financial services company. The company said he will remain a director until his term expires at the next annual meeting in the spring. Rubin has drawn criticism for his role in the bank's recent problems that drove it to seek federal assistance. The rise

in unemployment also hurt consumer discretionary stocks like retailers. Target Corp. fell \$2.12, or 5.7 percent, to \$35.40, while Macy's Inc. fell 63 cents, or 5.8 percent, to \$10.30.

Wall Street is also girding for dismal fourth-quarter earnings reports from companies starting next week.

"Everyone is expecting bad results," said Jim Swanson, chief investment strategist at MFS Investment Management in Boston. But he said Wall Street has also set expectations so low that results would have to be far worse than expected to startle the market.

"Anything that's not catastrophic will probably be greeted mildly or even a little bit positively," he said.

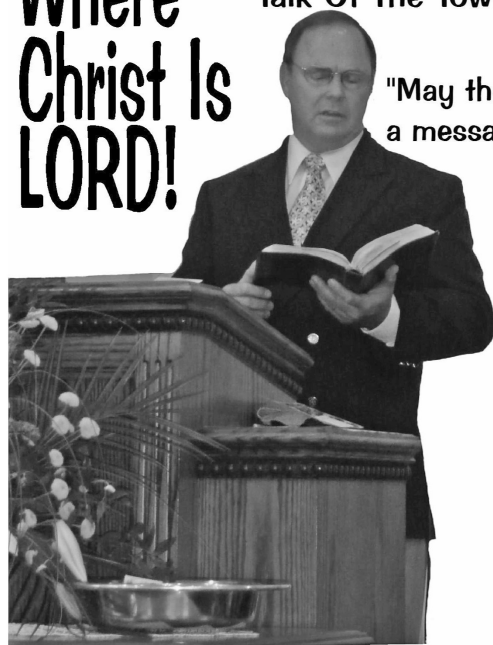
Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 0.45 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1.26 percent, Germany's DAX index fell 1.97 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 0.75 percent. □

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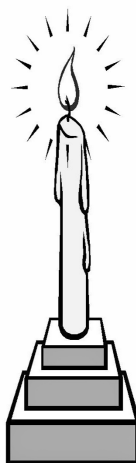
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Impeachment Made Easy: The Illinois Model

John Nichols

The Nation -- How quickly can a motivated legislative chamber impeach a scoundrel?

Very quickly, indeed.

The Illinois House of Representatives, acting just hours after the chamber's investigative committee recommended action against scandal-plagued Governor Rod Blagojevich, voted 114-1 Friday morning in favor of impeachment of the man who allegedly hung a "for sale" sign on the Senate seat of President-elect Barack Obama.

The Illinois House action sets up a state Senate trial that could lead to the removal of Blagojevich for abusing his office -- and for getting himself in such a mess that he can no longer effectively govern.

The Senate convenes for a trial on the impeachment charge next week, with each of the 59 senators acting as a juror. If 40 vote to convict the governor, he's out.

And if sentiments expressed in the state House are any indication -- where support for impeachment crossed lines of party, ideology and region -- it seems likely that the governor's days in office are numbered.

"Due to his conduct, the governor has failed to uphold the oath of office," explained state Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, who chaired of the House panel that held impeachment hearings while everyone in Washington was watching the circus surrounding Blagojevich's nomination of Roland Burris to fill the Obama seat.

On Thursday, the committee unanimously recommended that the House move against the governor.

On Friday, it did, with Currie saying of the governor: "He is no longer capable of defending our liberties. He should be impeached."

State Representative Jack Frank, a Chicago Democrat, was blunter: "It's our duty to clean up the mess and stop the freak show that's become Illinois government."

Representative Frank and his colleagues will get no argument from this quarter.

However, it is intriguing to some of us who have advocated for another impeachment (or so), that things are now moving so quickly in Illinois that Blagojevich forced from office before George Bush and Dick Cheney leave voluntarily.

What the Illinois circumstance tells us is that, for all the whining and bemoaning by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her cautious colleagues, impeachment need not be the cumbersome or dysfunctional process that members of Congress imagine -- and fear. □



In defense of Israel's 'disproportionate' response in Gaza

By Allan Richarz

Kannamachi, Japan -- It seems that whenever Israel responds to violent overtures from groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas, leaders of the international community are quick to assign equal condemnation to Israelis and Palestinians regardless of whether one is legitimately acting in self-defense.

Whether it is due to a latent anti-Semitism, the desire to avoid inflaming fundamentalist Arab passions, or simply an unrealistic belief in equality, world leaders are focusing too much on buzzwords.

In the case of Israel, the buzzwords are the "disproportionate" and "excessive" use of force -- terms used in the 2006 Lebanon war and most recently spoken by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in response to Israel's Gaza offensive.

This is a particularly puzzling criticism of Israel. Would the international community truly prefer a proportionate or equal response? If Hamas launches three crudely-fashioned rockets into Israel, should the Israeli government respond with three equally-crude rockets? If three Israeli Defense Forces are kidnapped by Hezbollah, should the IDF respond by kidnapping an equal number of Hezbollah foot-soldiers?

The notion of "proportional" response lacks both merit and logical support for several reasons. In war, there are winners and losers, and the only palatable means of victory come from a disproportionate use of force. Victors are inherently more skilled in combat, tactics, and in the effective deployment of (generally superior) technology.

It does not make sense to demand one technologically or militarily superior belligerent to refrain from fighting to their full potential, simply because they are able to enact "disproportionate" damage on a weaker foe.

Should the United States have refrained from using the atomic bomb because Japan did not yet possess one? Would it have been better to extend Lend-Lease to Nazi Germany as well as Britain

so that neither side would gain the advantage? Simply put, a militarily superior force should not limit itself due to the international community's desire to root for the underdog.

The notion of "proportional" responses is further baffling in that such occurrences actually prolong conflicts.

One need only look to the warfare in World War I. Equally-manned belligerents, using the same tactics, the same weapons, and the same defenses resulted in both sides being bogged down in interminable trench-warfare. No side could gain the upper hand and thus the conflict continued in an endless back-and-forth.

The cold war is another example of a proportional conflict. Both Russia and the United States maintained near-parity in regard to weapons, manpower, and political influence, and neither could emerge as sole superpower. As a result of its drawn-out nature, the conflict spread beyond America and Russia to encompass the entire Eastern and Western worlds. For an international community so concerned with peace, condemning "disproportionate" response, thereby accepting endless symmetrical warfare, appears hypocritical.

To be sure, discretion is the better part of valor, and that makes genocide a line that is unacceptable to cross. The use of retaliatory military force must not be reflexive. If peaceful solutions fail, however, the use of force is a viable option that may have to be employed.

Certainly, an indiscriminate carpet-bombing or use of nuclear weapons on Gaza would be an unacceptable and excessive use of force, but if care is taken to minimize the loss of civilian life, then states should be able to respond as they see fit. In the 2006 Lebanon war, as well as the current Gaza offensive, this proportionality argument has no place. In neither case did Israel decide to launch unprovoked, unnecessary air and ground assaults on a whim as a way of boasting its military might. In both cases, Israel's actions came as a response to provocations from groups bent on its destruction. □



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NETHERLANDS – As many Europeans escape the winter in back home to come to enjoy the sunny beaches and Aruban hospitality, it can get easy to forget what beauty winter can bring. The pictures might bring a hint of homesickness to some; to others it will bring a smile to their faces since they are very content with the sun and warm weather. In the Netherlands, on days like the ones in the pictures, many will leave work earlier to go and ice skate on natural ice. The last time this was possible in The Netherlands was in 1996. For many Dutch children this winter is the first time to see and experience the wonderful sensation of gliding over rivers and lakes. It is truly a nostalgic phenomenon, skating and stopping to get some “koek and zopie”, warm cake and sea soup. Many Dutchmen have warm memories of those days. □



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People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well.

A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at www.bugaloe.com. Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.



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The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking

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Ill. House impeaches governor, who vows to fight

By CHRISTOPHER WILLS

Associated Press Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois (AP) - The Illinois House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly Friday to impeach the state's embattled governor, setting up a trial in the state Senate over whether he should be thrown out for abuse of power, including allegedly trying to sell President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat. Gov. Rod Blagojevich responded with what has become trademark defiance since he arrested on federal charges a month ago. He accused the House of retaliating against him for trying to help the people of Illinois and said he is confident he'll be "properly exonerated" at a Senate trial.

"The causes of the impeachment are because I've done things to fight for families," said



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich makes a statement at a news conference Friday, Jan. 9, 2009 in Chicago, after he was impeached by the Illinois House on a wide array of offenses including criminal corruption and wasting taxpayers money. The two-term Democrat becomes the first governor in the history of Illinois to be impeached.

Blagojevich, who was joined by some beneficiaries of his health programs during a news conference in Chicago.

Blagojevich said the House that has resisted his efforts to help real people instead of "special interests and lobbyists."

He ended the news conference by quoting a poem from "Ulysses" by Lord Alfred Tennyson, ending with: "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Blagojevich had been out jogging in his Chicago neighborhood when the House vote came down. Impeachment required just 60 votes. The final tally was 114-1.

Legislators accused the Democratic governor of betraying the public trust by letting ego and ambition drive his decisions.

Associated Press

Continued on Page B4

Israel and Hamas ignore U.N. call for cease-fire

By IBRAHIM BARZAK and JASON KEYSER

Associated Press Writers

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) - Israeli jets and ground troops hammered at Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip and Islamic militants fired barrages of rockets at southern Israeli cities Friday, ignoring a U.N. resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire after two weeks of combat.

The Israeli prime minister's office said the U.N. action was not practical, and senior Cabinet ministers decided to press on with the offensive. Israel will stop only when it succeeds in ending rocket fire from the Hamas-ruled territory, the government said. Hopes that Thursday night's U.N. Security Council resolution would end Gaza's worst fighting in decades were further tempered by dismissive

remarks from Hamas, angry that it was not consulted during exhaustive diplomatic efforts at the world body.

Israel launched a heavy air bombardment Dec. 27 in response to intensified rocket fire that has disrupted life in southern Israel. A week later, ground troops moved in, with artillery and tank fire that has contributed to a surge in civilian casualties that continued Friday on Gaza's ruined streets.

Seven members of the Salha family were killed by an Israeli airstrike on their house overnight, militants said. On Friday, crowds in neat rows bowed in prayer in front of their bodies, wrapped in funeral shrouds and flags.

In a hospital in Beit Lahiya, a northern Gaza town that has been particularly hard-hit, doctors treated a young

girl whose left arm was torn off at the shoulder. She lay on a stretcher with a terrified expression on her face.

Such scenes have triggered anger throughout the Islamic world and elsewhere. There have been daily protests in the Middle East and in Europe, where there also has been a rise in anti-Semitic attacks.

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said it is difficult to protect civilians in a place as densely populated as Gaza.

"It's also an area in which Hamas participates in activities like human shields and using buildings that are not designated as military buildings to hide their fighters," she told reporters. "So it's hard."

In Geneva, the top U.N. human rights official called for an independent investigation of



An Israeli border police officer in the West Bank city of Hebron, throws a stun grenade during minor clashes with Palestinians following a protest against Israel's military operations in the Gaza Strip, Friday Jan. 9, 2009. Israeli jets and helicopters bombarded Gaza Friday and Hamas responded with a barrage of rockets on two cities as both sides defied a U.N. call for an immediate cease-fire.

Associated Press

possible war crimes in Gaza for an incident in which Palestinians said Israeli forces shelled a house, killing 30 people. Israel's military said it was not aware of the specific incident but would not have deliberately targeted the building.

By Friday evening, more than 20 Palestinians had been

reported killed during the day, pushing the death toll for the two-week conflict to around 780, according to Gaza health officials who said at least half of those killed were civilians. Thirteen Israelis have been killed - four of them by militant rockets, the rest in battle in Gaza.

Continued on Page B6

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Obama OKs modest tax changes after seeking ideas



President-elect Barack Obama answers questions during a news conference at his transition headquarters in Washington, Friday, Jan. 9, 2009.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Facing resistance from within his own party on his nearly \$800 billion economic recovery plan, President-elect Barack Obama on Friday pointed to alarming new unemployment figures to urge its passage in

Congress.

Obama sought to patch fissures with senior Democrats over key features of the still emerging plan, which he vowed to "hone and refine" with help from both Republican and Democratic lawmaker.

The need for a plan grew more pressing with the release of a Labor Department report showing job losses of 524,000 in December and a 7.2 percent unemployment rate, the highest in 16 years.

Democratic congressional officials said that Obama aides came under pressure in closed-door talks to jettison or significantly alter a proposed tax credit for creating jobs.

Further, Democrats sought inclusion of relief for upper middle-class families hit by the alternative minimum tax. The so-called AMT was originally designed to make sure the very wealthy did not escape taxes, but it now hits many more people because inflation has pushed up average incomes.

Congress every year tries to prevent it from reaching tens of millions of middle-income families.

The package is getting off to a rocky start, with top Democrats openly complaining about key provisions, especially the design of his tax cuts.

"If members of Congress have good ideas, if they can identify a project for me that will create jobs in an efficient way that does not hamper our ability over the long term to get control of our deficit, that is good for the economy, then I'm going to accept it," the president-elect said, speaking at a news conference during which he also announced his choices to lead America's intelligence agencies.

"What we can't do is drag this out when we just saw a half-million jobs lost," Obama added.

He noted that jobs were lost in all 12 months of 2008, and said it was the worst year since World War II.

Congressional leaders have said they will finish work on Obama's economic recovery plan by mid-February.

But a call for a \$3,000 tax break for job creation drew particular criticism in a closed-door meeting Friday, and numerous lawmakers said Obama had not ticketed enough of his tax proposal for energy and that more needed to be done to ease the housing crisis.

"All of their priorities are ones that we share," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "We just want to make sure that those functions, when they're written in the bill, are ones that can be used immediately and can create jobs."

Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, said that areas of broad agreement and universal sentiment of the need to act far outweigh areas of disagreement.

"Please don't get the idea there was some sort of breakdown here," Boxer told reporters. □

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No decision on Madoff bail until Monday

By TOM HAYS and LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press Writers

NEWYORK—Bernard Madoff avoided the dismal prospect of spending the weekend in jail Friday as a judge delayed a decision on whether to revoke his bail amid allegations that the disgraced financier is trying to keep his assets away from investors burned by a \$50 billion fraud.

The postponement came as prosecutors and the defense agreed to extend the deadline to bring an indictment against Madoff by 30 days, according to defense lawyer Ira Sorkin. Prosecutors originally had a Monday deadline to bring an indictment; the U.S. Attorney's office declined comment.

The bail decision by Magistrate Judge Ronald L. Ellis has been highly anticipated amid an outcry by the public, investors and prosecutors that Madoff be sent to jail. Investors have been especially incensed that a man accused of the largest fraud in history is allowed to spend his days and nights in his \$7 million luxury Manhattan apartment.

Ellis put the bail decision off until noon Monday.

Defense lawyers don't believe he poses a threat to the community or is a risk to flee — the two main considerations in bail decisions. Madoff has been confined to his

penthouse around the clock — the only exception being court appearances — and under constant guard as part of his release.

While free on bail, Madoff sent more than \$1 million worth of jewelry and heirlooms as gifts to family and friends over the holidays. Prosecutors said that the gifts were grounds to have his bail revoked because what's left of Madoff's assets will eventually be returned to burned investors. Madoff's lawyers called the sending of the gifts an innocent mistake. Madoff's bail conditions have grown tougher ever since his arrest one month ago.

He was allowed to go home after his initial court appearance on \$10 million bail secured only by the signatures of him and his wife. Six days later, Madoff was unable to get two of the required four co-signers of his bond, prompting the judge to require home detention with electronic monitoring, imposition of a curfew.

Madoff was later ordered to be confined to his apartment 24 hours per day with a private guard paid for by Madoff's wife.

Then on Christmas Eve, he mailed the heirlooms, including at least 16 watches, a jade necklace, an emerald ring, four diamond brooches, two sets of cufflinks, a

diamond bracelet and other assorted jewelry from brands like Cartier and Tiffany.

Prosecutors said the defense's claim that Madoff's holiday gifts were merely an attempt to reach out to his immediate family and close friends with whom contact had been cut off was "preposterous."

"That's what telephones, e-mails and personal letters are for," Assistant U.S. Attorney Marc Litt wrote.

U.S. has plans if Mexican drug violence crosses border

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL and EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press Writers

EL PASO, Texas (AP) - If Mexican drug violence spills across the U.S. border, Department of Homeland Security officials say they have a contingency plan to help border areas fight it.

"It's a common sense extension of our continued work with our state, local and tribal partners in securing the southwest border," DHS spokeswoman Amy Kudwa said Friday.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, who described the contingency plan in an interview with The New York Times this week, said he ordered specific plans



Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff, right, leaves U.S. District Court in Manhattan after a bail hearing in New York, Monday, Jan. 5, 2009. Prosecutors said Madoff violated bail conditions by mailing about \$1 million worth of jewelry and other assets to relatives and should be jailed without bail.

Associated Press



Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is interviewed by The Associated Press, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press

to be drawn up this summer as violence in Mexico continued to mount.

The plan includes federal homeland security agents helping local authorities and maybe even military assistance from the Department of Defense, possibly including aircraft, armored vehicles and special teams to go to areas overwhelmed with violence, authorities said.

Kudwa would not give specifics on the so-called "surge" plan because it is marked "for official use only." But she said the plan does not create any new authorities.

In the last year, more than 5,000 people have been killed and police and military officials have become common

targets for violent drug cartels who are fighting with each other and the government for control of lucrative drug and human smuggling routes across Mexico.

More than one-fifth of the deaths have occurred in Ciudad Juarez, the hard-scrabble border city just across the Rio Grande from El Paso.

Officials in Mexico reported about 1,600 homicides in Juarez in 2007 and at least 20 people have been killed in the first nine days of this year.

To date, there has been no significant violent spillover from the drug war in Mexico, but U.S. authorities have spent a tense year watching and waiting. □

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A board inside the Illinois House of Representatives shows the results of a vote to impeach Gov. Rod Blagojevich Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, in Springfield, Ill. Only one member, Rep. Milton Patterson (D-Chicago), voted not to impeach.

Associated Press

ILL. HOUSE

Continued from Page B1

"It's our duty to clean up the mess and stop the freak show that's become Illinois government," said Democratic Rep. Jack Franks.

Blagojevich is the first governor impeached in Illinois' long and often sordid political history. He could become only the eighth U.S. governor to be impeached and removed from office; the last was Arizona's Evan Mecham in 1988.

Blagojevich was arrested Dec. 9 on federal charges that include allegations he schemed to profit from his power to name President-elect Barack Obama's replacement in the Senate. The criminal complaint included an FBI agent's sworn affidavit describing wiretaps that caught Blagojevich allegedly talking about what he could get for the seat, how to pressure people into making campaign contributions and more. The man the governor ultimately picked for the Senate job got some good news Friday. The Illinois Supreme Court said Roland Burris' appointment is valid under state law even

though Secretary of State Jesse White had refused to sign it.

Burris, a former state attorney general who is not accused of wrongdoing, was turned away from the Senate this week, in part because his appointment lacked White's signature, but once-strident Senate opposition to accepting him has cooled.

However, the senior senator from Illinois, Dick Durbin, said Burris won't be accepted without White's signature. Durbin said the Senate "must insist" on its rule requiring White to sign. He said if White doesn't change his mind about signing, the Senate will wait to see if Blagojevich is removed from office after his impeachment trial.

The committee on Thursday unanimously recommended impeachment based on the criminal charges but other allegations as well - that Blagojevich expanded a health care program without proper authority, that he circumvented hiring laws to give jobs to political allies, that he spent millions of dollars on foreign flu vaccine that he knew wasn't needed and couldn't be

brought into the country. Blagojevich has denied the criminal charges. He criticized the House impeachment process but didn't testify before the committee and hasn't offered an explanation for the federal charges.

"His silence in this grave matter is deafening," said state House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, a Democrat.

During the House's 90-minute debate, no one spoke up to defend the governor. But Democratic Rep. Milton Patterson voted against impeachment. Rep. and Democratic Rep. Elga Jefferies voted "present." Patterson said he wasn't defending anyone, but that he read the impeachment committee's report and wasn't comfortable voting against the governor.

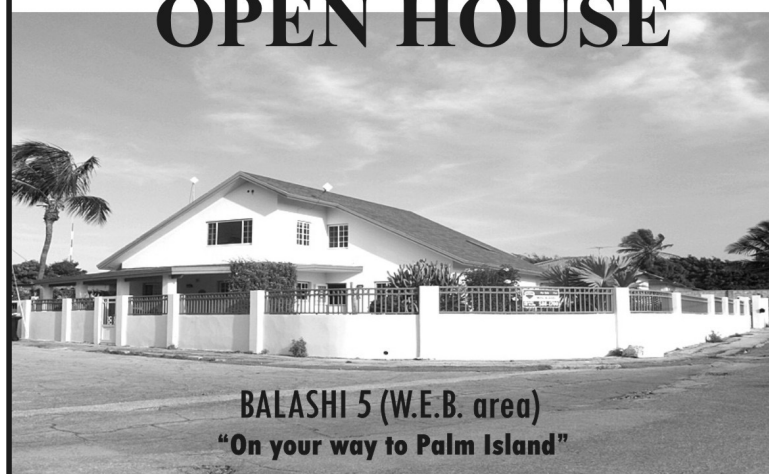
"I went by my own gut feeling, it's as simple as that," he said. "I read the report. If the government is going to indict him, let them go ahead and do that. That's their job and I'm doing my job."

The nearly unanimous vote reflects Blagojevich's rocky relationship with lawmakers, the political reality that supporting him now is likely to be unpopular and a genuine fury over his conduct.

Three men who served as Illinois governor since the late 1960s went to prison after they left office, including Blagojevich's immediate predecessor, George Ryan, who is now behind bars. But Blagojevich is the first to be impeached.

The Illinois Constitution lays out no standard of proof to be met for removing an impeached governor, other than that senators must "do justice according to law." □

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Boston fire truck smashes into building; 1 dead

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**
Associated Press Writer
BOSTON — A Boston Fire Department ladder truck coming down a hill plowed through an intersection Friday and crashed into a high-rise apartment building, killing one firefighter and seriously injuring a second. Dozens of firefighters bowed their heads and held their helmets over their hearts as they created a pathway for the body of one firefighter — covered in a black body bag

on a stretcher — to be carried from the wreckage and put into an ambulance. The truck apparently barreled down the steep Parker Hill Avenue, went through the intersection at Huntington Avenue and slammed into the building, said Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald. Lt. Kevin Kelly, 52, of Quincy, a 30-year-veteran riding in the truck's front seat, died at the scene, MacDonald said. Another firefighter aboard had a broken leg and two others

had minor injuries. He said another firefighter helping at the scene suffered a broken ankle. The truck hit a section of the building where children were working in a computer learning center. MacDonald said four children were taken to hospitals with minor injuries. Three firefighters taken to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center were in good condition, said spokeswoman Zineb Marchoudi.



Boston firefighters work to remove a firefighter from a ladder truck which crashed into a building in Boston, Friday Jan. 9, 2009. One firefighter died and others injured in the incident.
Associated Press

Baltimore mayor indicted on theft, perjury charges

By **BEN NUCKOLS**
Associated Press Writer
BALTIMORE — Mayor Sheila Dixon was indicted Friday on charges that she accepted illegal gifts during her time as mayor and City Council president, including travel, fur coats and gift cards intended for the poor that she allegedly used instead for a holiday shopping spree. A grand jury indicted Dixon on 12 counts, including four counts of perjury and two counts of theft over \$500. She was also charged with theft under \$500, fraudulent misappropriation by a fiduciary and misconduct in office.



Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon listens during a news conference, Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, in Baltimore. Earlier in the day a grand jury indicted Dixon on 12 counts, including perjury, theft and misconduct in office.
Associated Press

Her attorney, Arnold M. Weiner, leveled an angry verbal attack against State Prosecutor Robert A. Rohrbaugh at an afternoon news conference. “Sheila Dixon has been the state prosecutor’s singular, personal obsession over the past four years,” said Weiner. □

The State Prosecutor’s Office, which has been investigating corruption at City Hall for nearly three years, said Dixon received holiday gift cards for four years from several people. Prosecutors said the gift cards were to be distributed to needy families, but were instead used by Dixon to buy electronics — including an Xbox, a PlayStation 2 and a camcorder — clothes and other merchandise and also handed out to members of her staff. “I am being unfairly accused,” Dixon said in a statement. “Time will prove that I have done nothing wrong, and I am confident that I will be found innocent of these charges.” Dixon said she would not step down. “I will not let these charges deter me from keeping Baltimore on the path that we have set.”

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Mehigan said five people not involved in the crash were taken to hospitals to be checked because of anxiety-related symptoms. MacDonald declined to comment on the cause of the crash. He said the truck’s maintenance records will be part of the investigation. The accident closed part of Huntington Avenue — a major thoroughfare near Northeastern University and several of the city’s major medical centers. The truck struck two parked cars and a brick wall before becoming lodged in the building. Danyelle Jones, 24, said she was throwing away trash on the eighth floor when she was nearly knocked over by the collision. “I heard a loud boom and my back got all twisted up,” she

said. The tall red brick structure is owned by the nonprofit Roxbury Tenants of Harvard, a housing and human service organization that was founded by residents of the neighborhood in 1969. WHDH-TV and The Boston Globe reported the same ladder truck involved in Friday’s accident was involved in a minor accident on Dec. 10, when the truck rear-ended a car at the intersection of Huntington and Longwood Avenues, causing minor damage and no injuries. The Globe reported, citing an unnamed city official, that an investigation found no problem with the truck’s brakes then, and that the driver of the car was found at fault for cutting off the fire truck. MacDonald declined to comment on the reports. □

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Death toll rises to nine from Costa Rica quake




U.S. tourists Alison Gilbert, left, of Lacross, Wisconsin, and Megan Teczek, second from left, of Antiock , Illinios, follow a Costa Rican guide after a 6.1-magnitude earthquake near La Paz de Vara Blanca, some 70 kilometers northwest of San Jose, Friday, Jan. 9, 2009. The Red Cross reported the death toll rose to at least 9 victims in Costa Rica’s magnitude-6.1 earthquake centered near the Poas Volcano National Park.

Associated Press
 By MARIANELA JIMENEZ - Helicopters plucked tourists
 Associated Press Writer from destroyed, mountaintop
 SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) resorts as the death toll from

Costa Rica’s magnitude-6.1 earthquake rose to at least 9 victims, the Red Cross said Friday.
 Dozens more remained missing as survivors reported seeing people buried by landslides.
 “I watched as the earth took my aunt and my cousins ... I watched them be buried,” Miguel Angel Marin told Channel 7 news.
 The quake shook the Central American nation Thursday afternoon, collapsing homes, unleashing massive landslides, and trapping hundreds of people in damaged mountain towns.
 Red Cross spokeswoman Fiorella Vilca said the dead include 7- and 11-year-old sisters buried in a landslide, a 12-year-old girl whose home was crushed by falling earth, two men found dead in San Pedro de Poas, and three bodies found in a battered truck near the Angel waterfall popular with tourists. Another victim died of a heart attack in the capital, San Jose.
 On Friday, rescue officials reached nearly 500 people trapped in the hardest hit zone

_ a mountainous area with few access roads, most of which were blocked by landslides.
 “We are trying to evacuate these areas as soon as possible,” Red Cross spokesman Freddy Roman said.
 Many residents of the area are small farmers who raise livestock or grow strawberries and ornamental plants. The region has also seen increased tourism in recent years.
 Allan Flores, head of the Costa Rican Tourism Institute, told Channel 7 that about 200 Costa Rican and foreign tourists were trapped at the La Paz Waterfall Gardens hotel, a luxury eco-resort in Vara Blanca.
 He said no tourists at the hotel appeared to be injured. Those who could hike out were being led to rescue vehicles, while the rest were being airlifted back to the capital.
 Local media reported that the resort suffered severe damage in the quake and visitors had to sleep outside.
 When a helicopter from Channel 7 flew over the hotel early Friday, before the rescue effort began, a woman shouted in English: “We want to get

out of this place!”
 Phone calls to the resort went unanswered.
 At least three of the deaths were at the waterfalls near the resort.
 A Belgian tourist told Channel 7 that she was on a lookout platform near the falls with her husband and his two young children when the quake suddenly collapsed the structure and they fell 20 yards (20 meters).
 They survived with only minor injuries.
 There were also reports of cars being buried by landslides and widespread destruction in the remote town of Cinchona.
 Resident Manuel Cambronero told Channel 7 by phone that Cinchona was destroyed.
 “The only thing left is the field where we plant strawberries,” he said. “It gives me chills just remembering it, because the mountains moved and all the homes collapsed on the ground.”
 The U.S. Geological Survey said the temblor was centered 22 miles (35 kilometers) northwest of San Jose, near the Poas Volcano National Park. □



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	daily: 5:15	7:30	9:45	
	matinee: 12:50	3:00	late show: 11:55	
PG	CRIMSON WINGS			NEW
	daily: 3:45	5:40		
	matinee: 12:05	1:50	late show:	
PG-13	THE SPIRIT			NEW
	daily: 5:00	7:20	9:50	
	matinee: 12:30	2:45	late show: 12:00	
PG-13	THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL			
	daily: 7:25	9:40		
	matinee:	late show: 12:20		
PG	BEDTIME STORIES			
	daily: 5:05	7:15	9:30	
	matinee: 12:40	2:50	late show: 11:40	
R	VALKYRIE			
	daily: 7:10	9:50		
	matinee:	late show: 12:15		
PG	MARLY & ME			
	daily: 4:30	7:00	9:35	
	matinee: 1:55		late show: 12:05	
G	TALE OF DESPEREAUX			
	daily: 5:10			
	matinee: 12:45	2:55	late show:	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG	BRIDE WARS			NEW
	daily: 3:55	6:00	8:00	9:50
	matinee: 11:55	1:55	late show: 11:55	
PG-13	YES MEN			NEW
	daily: 5:40	7:50	10:05	
	matinee: 1:10	3:20	late show: 12:20	
G	TALE OF DESPEREAUX			
	daily: 4:00	6:05		
	matinee: 11:50	1:50	late show:	
PG-13	THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL			
	daily: 8:10	10:30		
	matinee:	late show: 12:40		
R	VALKYRIE			
	daily: 5:10	7:35	10:00	
	matinee: 12:05	2:35	late show: 12:25	
PG	MARLY & ME			
	daily: 5:05	7:40	10:10	
	matinee: 12:00	2:30	late show: 12:40	
PG	BEDTIME STORIES			
	daily: 3:35	5:55	8:10	10:20
	matinee: 1:25		late show: 12:30	

DRIVE-IN January 8 – January 11

PG	IGOR		
	Thursday: 8:00	Friday: 8:00 & 10:30	
PG	MADAGASCAR 2		
	Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30	Sunday: 8:00	

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat

CEASE-FIRE.....Continued from Page B1
 The Security Council resolution called for an immediate, durable and fully respected cease-fire, leading to the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza.
 While the call was tantamount to a demand on Israel and Hamas to stop fighting, it did not require that Israel’s troops withdraw until there was a durable cease-fire. The resolution also urged U.N. member states to intensify efforts to provide guarantees in Gaza to sustain a lasting truce, including prevention of arms smuggling _ a key Israeli concern.
 A six-month truce unraveled in November, and Israeli officials have said that lull allowed Hamas to bring in more advanced weaponry through hundreds of smuggling tunnels snaking beneath the Gaza border from Egypt’s Sinai Desert.
 In Israel’s first official response to the U.N. resolution, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s office said more Hamas rockets fired Friday “only prove that the U.N.’s decision is not practical and will not be kept in practice by the Palestinian murder organizations.”
 Senior Cabinet ministers issued a statement saying the military offensive would continue to protect Israeli citizens.
 Hamas also dismissed the resolution, and spokesmen expressed annoyance they were not consulted.
 “Nobody consulted Hamas or talked to Hamas.

Nobody put Hamas in the picture and yet Hamas is required to accept it. This is unacceptable,” Mohammed Nazzal, a senior Hamas official based in Syria, told Al-Arabiya television.
 Hamas has said it won’t accept any cease-fire deal that does not include the full opening of Gaza’s border crossings. The U.N. resolution emphasized the need to open all crossings, which Israel and Egypt have kept sealed since Hamas militants forcibly seized control of the territory 18 months ago.
 Israeli leaders oppose that step because it would allow Hamas to strengthen its hold on Gaza.
 In Lebanon, Hamas official Osama Hamdan told Al-Arabiya that the group “is not interested in it (the U.N. resolution) because it does not meet the demands of the movement.”
 Seven Hamas officials crossed into Egypt on Friday through the Gaza border crossing at Rafah, on their way to Cairo for Egyptian-hosted negotiations on a truce with Israel.
 The talks were expected to begin sometime Saturday following the arrival of a Hamas delegation from Syria, including politburo members Mohammed Nasr and Imad al-Alami.
 On reaching Cairo, Hamas delegate Ayman Taha told Al-Jazeera Television that his group wanted an end to Israel’s attacks and its withdrawal from Gaza. “We are not asking the impossible. This is our right to ask for it, and to protect our people and their blood.” □

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Negotiator: pirates get \$3 mil for Saudi tanker

By MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN

Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

- After reportedly receiving a \$3 million ransom dropped by parachute, pirates said they released a captured Saudi supertanker, ending a two-month drama that helped galvanize international efforts to fight piracy off Africa's coast.

U.S. Navy photos showed a parachute, carrying what they described as "an apparent payment," floating toward the tanker, which had been held with its 25-member since Nov. 15. Mohamed Said, a negotiator with the pirates, told The Associated Press by telephone the ship was released Friday and traveling to "safe waters" after the payment of \$3 million, far less than the \$25 million initially sought.

The owner of the Liberian-flagged tanker, Vela International Marine Ltd., declined to comment on the claim. Combined Military Forces patrolling the waters issued a statement saying, "It appears Somali pirates have received payment for the very large crude tanker Sirius Star." The seizure of the Sirius Star, which is the size of an aircraft carrier and filled with two million barrels of oil valued about \$100 million, capped a string of increasingly audacious attacks by Somali pirates. Not only was it the largest ship to have been hijacked, it was taken in the Indian Ocean more than 500 miles southeast of Mombasa, Kenya, demonstrating growing capability on the part of the pirates.

Until then, most hijackings had occurred closer to the Somali coast in the Gulf of Aden, one of the busiest shipping channels in the world, leading to and from the Suez Canal.

International efforts to combat

piracy have increased since the tanker's capture and its release comes one day after the Navy announced that a new international force under American command will soon begin patrols to confront Somali pirates. Over a hundred ships were attacked last year. More than a dozen with about 300 crew members are still being held by pirates off the coast of Somalia, including the weapons-laden Ukrainian cargo ship MV Faina, which was seized in September.

"While the potential release of the Sirius Star is undoubtedly excellent news, we must not forget that nearly three hundred other merchant mariners are still being held captive. The men who attacked the ship and held the crew hostage are armed criminals and consequently, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to address the international problem of piracy," said Commodore Tim Lowe, deputy commander of the new force.

Between 12-14 international warships currently patrol the waters off the coast of Somalia in the Indian Ocean at all times seeking to prevent pirate attacks on cargo vessels, according to Cmdr. Jane Campbell, spokeswoman for the Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain.

The area they cover is nearly four times the size of Texas and despite the heavy naval presence _ backed by the ships' own reconnaissance helicopters and long-range maritime patrol aircraft _ four cargo vessels have been snatched in the past month alone.

"The biggest part is coordination, because it's such a vast area to cover," Campbell said.

The newest mission _ expected to begin operations next week _ appears more of an attempt to sharpen the military focus against piracy rather than expand offensives across one

of the world's most crucial shipping lanes.

The force will carry no wider authority to strike at pirate vessels at sea or specific mandates to move against havens on shore _ which some maritime experts believe is necessary to weaken the pirate gangs.

The pirates are trained fighters, often dressed in military fatigues, using speedboats equipped with satellite phones and GPS equipment. They are typically armed with automatic weapons, anti-tank rocket launchers and various types of grenades. Far out to sea, their speedboats operate from larger mother ships.

Most hijackings end with million-dollar pay-outs. Piracy is considered the biggest moneymaker in Somalia, a country that has had no stable government for decades. A recent report by the London-based think-tank Chatham House said pirates raked in more than \$30 million in ransoms last year. The U.S. Navy and other nations have international authority to battle pirates in the open seas and come to the aid of vessels under attack. But forces have been stymied on how to respond to ships under pirate control, fearing an all-out assault could endanger the crew members held hostage.

Other ships being held include the Ukrainian cargo ship, which is carrying 33 battle tanks.

Relatives of the crew say that neither government authorities nor the owner of the MV Faina are giving them any information about negotiations with the captors or their loved ones' health. On Friday, they appealed to international humanitarian groups for help.

Pirates and Ukrainian authorities both said in December that a deal had been reached and that the seamen would be released soon. But there has been no



A parachute dropped by a small aircraft drops over the MV Sirius Star at anchor, in this U.S. Navy photo, Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, following an apparent payment via a parachuted container to pirates holding the ship. Somali pirates released the oil-laden Saudi supertanker after receiving a \$3 million ransom, a negotiator for the bandits said Friday. The ship owner did not confirm it. The brand new tanker, with a 25-member crew, was seized in the Indian Ocean Nov. 15 in a dramatic escalation of high seas crime.

Associated Press

sign of progress since then. The \$20 million when they hijacked pirates had originally demanded the Faina. □

U.S. travel rules change for those not needing visa

LONDON – U.S. officials say people from countries that do not need visas to enter the United States must begin registering under a new travel authorization program before making their journey.

Travelers from the 35 countries are asked to obtain an authorization from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at least 72 hours before their flight departs to the U.S.

The program has been voluntary since August and becomes mandatory Monday.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Dick Custin in Britain said Friday that approval has been granted in nearly all of the cases involving voluntary participants.

The online application form asks tourists to say if they are drug users and divulge certain criminals convictions or past terror activities. □



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Casa Tua pizzas range in price from \$10 to \$16 with outstanding choices such as the Frutti di Mare which is topped with tomato sauce, cheese, seafood, garlic and parsley or the Quattro Stag-



gioni (Vegetarian) which is loaded with the perfect combination of tomato sauce, cheese, artichoke, marinated sweet red pepper, Paris white mushrooms and ripe olives. Other pizza topping selections include tiger shrimp, goat cheese, tuna, Spanish sausage, smoked salmon with capers

as well as something as simple as a Margarita pizza with just tomato sauce & cheese or add ham or pepperoni.

Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian. The menu doesn't stop with just pizzas at Casa Tua. They feature incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pasta dishes starting at just \$14. Every dish is perfect from the Fettuccini Alfredo which is the famous Roman dish made with cheese, cream butter, fresh, dried basil and garlic to the Linguine Tarentina which is jumbo shrimps, fresh tomato sauce with fish squid



and mussels, sauteed in olive oil with fresh garlic, served on a bed of linguini noodles. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired

wine or other beverages.

After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know you're home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his son Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his father, aunt and uncles who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, Profiterolles au Chocolat chaud, or Banana 'Casa Tua'. Located at Arawak Gardens

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is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned dining room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music.

Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day.

The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice.

Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples

and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp.

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



NFL Preview

Are the Eagles this year's Giants?

By DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Justin Tuck laughed when he was asked if the Philadelphia Eagles are this year's version of the New York Giants, a low-seeded NFL wild-card team that can go all the way.

"The Giants from last year are in that locker room over there," New York's Pro Bowl defensive end said at Giants Stadium.

"The team in Philadelphia," Tuck added, "is the Eagles of this year."

The scene sets a compelling second-round NFL playoff matchup, the third meeting of the season between the defending champions and their NFC East rivals from 90 miles (145 kilometers) down the New Jersey Turnpike.

As Philadelphia is trying to do this year, New York had to win three road games before upsetting unbeaten New England 17-14 in the Super Bowl.

Philadelphia handed New York its only home loss, 20-14 on Dec. 7. It was a game that some of the Eagles think was their best this season, and the Giants consider one of their worst. It came the week after Plaxico Burress, the Giants' main receiving threat, shot himself accidentally in the leg and was suspended by the team for the rest of the season.

What also makes it compelling is the nature of the NFC East, probably the consistently best division in the NFL for the last 25 years. It has had eight teams in the playoffs in the last three seasons and, from 1990-1992, had three teams win Super Bowls: The Giants, Washington and Dallas.

Philadelphia is the only division team without a Super Bowl victory - Dallas has five and New York and Washington three each. But for most of this decade, with Donovan McNabb at quarterback, the Eagles have been consistently good, missing the playoffs just twice.



New York Giants defensive end Justin Tuck (91) celebrates after stopping Philadelphia Eagles running back Brian Westbrook (36) for no gain on a fourth down during the fourth quarter of NFL football game action in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in this file photo from November 9, 2008.

Reuters Photo

They defeated the Minnesota Vikings 26-14 in the first round last weekend.

The Eagles and Giants meet on Sunday, followed by the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. the San Diego Chargers. On Saturday, it's Tennessee Titans vs. Baltimore Ravens, then Carolina Panthers vs. Arizona Cardinals.

The Tennessee-Baltimore clash should be a low-scoring game between teams who emphasize defense and running.

The Titans beat the Ravens 13-10 on Oct. 5 with Kerry Collins engineering a late 80-yard drive for Tennessee's only touchdown that was sustained by a dubious blow-to-the-head penalty on Baltimore's Terrell Suggs.

That was the third straight loss for the Ravens. But they have won 10 of 12 since as rookie quarterback Joe Flacco has matured, Le'Ron McClain has emerged as a power running back and the defense, led by Ed Reed, has become an offensive force.

Defense? Baltimore had five takeaways last week against a Miami team that tied for the league lead with just 13 giveaways. One of the touchdowns came on a 64-yard interception return by Reed, who has four scores on defense this season.

"It's just natural at this point," Reed said. "You want to score. We talk about it on defense, we do it in practice."

Collins has been careful with the ball, too, and it's one of the reasons he's starting ahead of Vince Young, the NFL's rookie of the year in 2006. He's thrown just seven interceptions. It helps that the Titans have run so well. They're sixth in the league in yards rushing behind the tandem of Chris Johnson, the only rookie to make the Pro Bowl, and LenDale White.

Last weekend, San Diego eliminated Indianapolis 23-17 in overtime, its fourth victory in its last five meetings with the Colts.

But the Chargers have always

had trouble on the East Coast, including an 11-10 defeat in Pittsburgh in November, the only game with that score in the NFL's 89 seasons.

San Diego may not have rushing star LaDainian Tomlinson, who has a torn tendon in his groin, but it will have Darren Sproles, who had 328 all-purpose yards against the Colts.

The Steelers, on the other hand, will have quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who was carried off with a concussion in the final regular-season game but has been practicing all week. The key may be how well he's protected by an offensive line that has been Pittsburgh's weak link all season.

It hasn't been a good season for Roethlisberger. A year after throwing 32 touchdown passes and 11 interceptions, he has had just 17 touchdowns and 15 interceptions.

The big thing is we can drive up and down the field, but we have to be able to put the ball in when we get down there," he said. □

NBA Roundup

Parker scores 19, leads Spurs past Clippers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Tony Parker scored 19 points as San Antonio beat the skidding Los Angeles Clippers 106-84 on Thursday, giving the Spurs their ninth win in the past 10 NBA games despite getting only eight points from Tim Duncan. The Clippers have lost nine straight.

The Spurs, winners of three consecutive games, have a 1½-game lead over second-place New Orleans in the Southwest Division.

Roger Mason added 18 points for the Spurs. Michael Finley had 15 and Manu Ginobili 13 off the bench. Matt Bonner scored 11.

Though Duncan fell short of double figures in points and rebounds (four), he led the Spurs with nine assists.

The Clippers got 21 points each from Eric Gordon and Al Thornton.

Mavericks 99, Knicks 94

At Dallas, Josh Howard scored 19 points, Jason Kidd added 16 and Dallas overcame a subpar game from Dirk Nowitzki to beat New York.

The Mavericks have beaten the Knicks nine straight times in Dallas dating to December 1999.

Nowitzki, the NBA's fourth-leading scorer, was 3-of-13 from the floor and scored 10 points, just two more than his season low.

Knicks center Eddy Curry, who missed the first 33 games with a knee injury, played for the first time this season. He made his only shot attempt in 2½ minutes of action and grabbed two rebounds.

Chris Duhon hit his first nine shots and scored 24 points, and Wilson Chandler added 20 for the Knicks, who have lost two in a row since beating defending champion Boston on Sunday.

New York's David Lee had 13 points and 15 rebounds _ his seventh consecutive double-double. □

Sloppy, choppy game leaves Fla. as BCS champion

By BEN WALKER

AP National Writer

MIAMI (AP) - Quarterback Tim Tebow drove Florida to the late game-clinching touchdown as the Gators won college football's championship game with a 24-14 victory over Oklahoma on Thursday.

Tebow shook off a career-high two interceptions _ as many as he'd had all season _ and drove the Gators over the final minutes. With just over three minutes to play, Tebow took two hard steps toward the line, jumped and zipped a 4-yard touchdown pass to David Nelson to make it 24-14.

Tebow carried the ball on the Gators' final six plays, smashing into the Oklahoma line five times. He also drew an unsportsmanlike penalty as the teams taunted each other in the closing moments.

"I was already motivated for a national championship game. But you know, there was some trash talking going on, and it just gets me going during the game," said Tebow, who ran for 109 yards.

While his passing wasn't so precise _ 18-for-30 _ yet it was his sheer will that kept the Gators going. Beaten out for the Heisman this season by Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, Tebow outplayed him and was picked the game's most outstanding player.

"Tebow, just call him Superman," teammate Percy Harvin said.

The game was not a great spectacle, and would further the claims of teams like Southern California, Utah and Texas that they deserved a berth in the title decider. It would heighten arguments for a more transparent and objective way of deciding the college football championship rather than the arcane bowl system.

"I'll tell you, we're going to enjoy a big win, we're going to enjoy the national championship," coach Urban Meyer said. "Let someone else worry about that. Gators are No. 1."

Tailback Harvin returned from an ankle injury and dashed for 122 yards on only nine carries for the Gators. His 52-yard rush set up Jonathan Phillips' 27-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter for a 17-14 lead.

It was Florida's second title in three years after the 2006 rout of Ohio State and its third overall. It was also the third straight for a team from the Southeastern Conference, and Oklahoma's fifth straight loss in a bowl game. The Sooners set a modern record for scoring with 702 points this season, yet never found its rhythm.

"In the end, I'll be glad to try again next year," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "If that's the biggest burden I have to bear in my life, I'm a pretty lucky guy."

Bradford was a disappointing 26-for-41 with two interceptions. Like Tebow, he's going to explore his potential for the NFL draft.

"They're a great defense. Just a couple times we got ourselves in trouble," Bradford said.

Tebow struggled throughout the first half, his lone highlight a 20-yard touchdown pass to Louis Murphy for a 7-0 lead early in the second quarter. Bradford came right back with a swift 65-yard drive, capped by his 6-yard TD toss to Jermaine Gresham.

Poised to break the tie midway through the second quarter, Oklahoma had a first-and-goal at the 9-yard line. Chris Brown carried four straight times but the Gators stood up, twice stopping him at the 1-yard line.

Rarely turned back in the red zone this season, the Sooners let it happen to them again in the final minute before halftime.

There were 10 seconds left and Oklahoma was out of timeouts when Bradford dropped back from the 6. He tried to hit Manuel Johnson at the goal line, but the pass deflected off him.

Those failures made up for Tebow's uncharacteristic wayward passing. His interceptions were bad _ Tebow telegraphed a long, cross-field throw that was easily grabbed and later made a short flip over the middle right that was picked off. □



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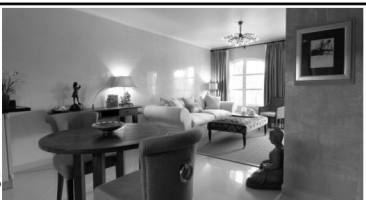
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Calendar Period: December 2008 - January 2009

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr
Supreme,OceanFront -US\$26,000

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-2Bdr
Supreme,OceanFront US\$35,000

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B
RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$32,000

week#2-17-OccidentaGrandl-1B
Delux,OceanView- US\$14,000

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-JR
Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000

week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-JR
Suite, Oceanview - US\$16,000

week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-EX
Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000

week#2,3,4,5,6-LaCabana-1Bdx
R#401d,OceanFr.-US\$18,000pw

week# 52 - La Cabana - 1Bdr
R#442a-Ocean/pool-US\$17,000

week#52(2x)-La Cabana -2Bdr
R#128b/c-Ocean/po-US\$25,000

week# 52-La Cabana- 1Bdr
R#137a,OceanView- US\$9,000

week# 3,4,5,6LaCabana.-2Bdr.
R#346e-OceanF.-US\$30,000pw

week# 52,Aruban Resort - 1Bdr.
R#4522 - Poolv - US\$9,500

week# 51,52,Aruban Resort-1Bdr
R#4586, Poolv - US\$9,500 pw

week# 1&2, Aruban Resort- 1Bdr
R#4585,Poolv - US\$8,000 pw

week# 2, Aruban Resort-1Bdr.
R#4584, Poolview - US\$8,000

week# 1,2,3,4 ArubanRes-1Bdr.
R#1586,poolview- US\$8,000pw

week# 1,2,3,4 ArubanRes-1Bdr.
R#3586, poolv- US\$7,000pw

week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr.
R#5510,poolview- US\$14,000

week#52(2x).ArubanRes-2Bdr
R#4524/20,poolv- US\$9,500pw

Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf.
2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000

Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf.
2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000

PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf.
2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$140,000

PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf.
2Bdr,OceanView-US\$125,000

week#2,3,4,5,6,OccidentalGr-3Bdr
3Baths,OceanFront-US\$70,000pw

PlatinumPl. W#51 Marriott Surf.
2Bdr, Oceanview-US\$45,000

PlatinumPl. W#52- Marriott Surf.
2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000

PlatinumPL.W#52- Marriott Surf.
1Bdr,Oceanview- US\$55,000

FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean
2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000

PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean
1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000

PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean
1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$30,000

PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean
2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000

PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean
2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000

week# 1 -CostaLinda - 2Bdr.
R#2031,Ocean/pool-US\$25,000

week#1 CostaLinda - 2Bdr
R#1014,OceanView-US\$24,000

week# 4,5,6 -Costa Linda-2Bdr.
R#1016,Oceanview-US\$24,000

week# 4, Costa Linda - 2Bdr.
R#2012,Oceanview.-US\$24,000

week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr.
R#1010,Oceanview-US\$24,000

week# 5 - Costa Linda - 2 Bdr.
R#3004,Ocean/Pool-US\$26,000

week#1&2,Renaissance -1Br
R#2508,GardenV-US\$10,000pw

week# 4 & 5 DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr
R#108,OceanFR-US\$12,000pw

week# 2,Aruban Resort-1 Bdr.
R#4584 ,PoolView-US\$.8,475

week# 1,Paradise B.V - 1 Bdr.
R#227, Oceanfront-US\$15,000

week# 2, ParadiseBV - 2Bdr.
R# 207,Ocean/Pool-US\$15,000

week# 3&4, ParadiseB.V - 1Bdr.
R#101,Ocean/p-US\$12,000pw

week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr.
R#129,Oceanfront - US\$24,000

week# 52 ,DiviPhoenix -Studio.
R#110,OceanFront - US\$11,000

week# 1, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr.
R#206,OceanFront-US\$20,000

week# 1 - DiviPhoenix - Studio
R#204, Oceanfront - US\$9,000

week#2buanual-DiviPhoenixStudio.
R#404,Oceanfront- US\$6,000

week# 3-DiviPhoenix -1Bdr
R#601,Oceanview- US\$12,000

week#3-4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr
R#416,Oceanfrnt-US\$25,000pw

week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr
R#901- Oceanview-US\$11,000

week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr.
R#1001,Oceanv- US\$10,000

week#5-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath.
R#206,Oceanfront US\$23,000

week#6-7-DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr
R#302,Oceanfro.-US\$25,000pw

week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr
R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000

week#52 - DiviLinks - 1-Bdr
R#2206-Poolview-US\$18,000

weeks#50,51,52,-DiviLinks-1Bdr
R#4226-,Ocean/p-US\$16,000pw

week#1-2,-3 -DiviLinks - 1Bdr
R#4226,Ocean/P-US\$16,000pw

week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio.
R#2108,Poolv - US\$14,000

week# 4-DiviLinks -1 Bdr.
R#2105,Poolview-US\$16,000

week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio
R#2214,PoolV.- US\$14,000

week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr
R#302,OceanFront-US\$23,000

week# 51&52-DiviVillage-studio
R#7204,OceanV,US\$10,000p.w

week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio.
R#8303,PoolOcean-US\$8,000

week# 1-RIU Palace - 2Bdr
R#269,Oceanfront-US\$27,000

week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr
R#440b&c,Oce/p-US\$20,000pw

week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br
R#336a,Ocean/pool-US\$11,000

week#11,Dutchvillage- 2Bdr
R#46&49,PoolV US\$18,000pw

Whole year AmsterDManor-2Bd
R#213,OceanPV-US\$520,000

week#10.DutchVillage-1Bdr
R#121,Poolview-US\$8,000

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Costa Rica: 4 muertos y 22 desaparecidos por terremoto



Un hombre observa su casa que fue destruida en un terremoto en Cartagos of Alajuela, 9 ene 2009. REUTERS/Juan Carlos Ulate (COSTA RICA)

SAN JOSE (AP) - La Cruz Roja de Costa Rica informó el viernes que el número de muertos por el terremoto de la víspera es de cuatro y no de 14 como había reportado con anterioridad y confirmó que mantiene la búsqueda de al menos otras 22 personas desaparecidas.

La oficina de prensa de la Cruz Roja explicó que por errores en la comunicación por radio entre los funcionarios se

informó de 14 muertos. La vocera Fiorella Vilca detalló que se trata de las hermanas Tatiana y Marisela Olivas, de siete y once años de edad y vecinas de Dulce Nombre de Poás, así como otra menor de 12 años identificada como Ana María Rodríguez, de Fraijanes de Alajuela.

La cuarta víctima es un hombre de unos 35 años de edad cuyo cuerpo permanece en la catarata La Paz. La

Cruz Roja aún desconoce su identidad y se encuentra en las labores de recuperación de los restos. Las autoridades también contabilizan una víctima indirecta del sismo: una mujer que falleció por un ataque al corazón al este de la capital

El movimiento se registró la tarde del jueves con epicentro a unos 35 kilómetros al noroeste de San José, en las cercanías del parque nacional

Volcán Poás, en Alajuela. Su profundidad fue de apenas seis kilómetros, lo que motivó que fuera sentido con más

fuerza, según los expertos del Observatorio Sismológico en Costa Rica. □



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